

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 NEAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 SSM-03 SAM-01 SAB-01 OMB-01

ACDA-07 DHA-02 ORM-02 DPW-01 /094 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1471

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

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CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 6855

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION AUG. 9: CEASEFIRE EFFORTS FADING;

CHRISTIAN METN CAMPAIGN; LEBANESE POLITICAL EFFORTS

REF: BEIRUT 6844

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1. SUMMARY: QUADRIpartite COMMITTEE PROVIDED FOR BY SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT FAILS TO MEET AS KGADDAM AND QADDUMI DEPART FOR SRI LANKA. CHAMOUN FINDS JUNBLATTI PARTICIPATION UNACCEPTABLE. NO PROGRESS ON LOCAL AL CEASEFIRE EFFORTS, ALTHOUGH MILITARY-LEVEL MEETING SCHEDULED AUGUST 9. NEVERTHELESS, AL DEPUTY KHOLI KEEPS TRYING. NEW CHRISTIAN PUSH IN LOWER METN. IN BEIRUT, USUAL CONFRONTATION LINE FIGHTING AND MOP-UP AT NABAA CONTINUES. CHRISTIANS UNSECCESFUL IN ATTACK IN NORTH. KARAME SEEKING REVIVE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION. GEMAYEL-SALAM MEETING EVOKES HOPES FOR LEBANESE-LEBANESE DIALOGUE. GEMAYEL MAY MEET JUNBLATT AND ARAFAT. POSSIBLE POLITICAL EFFORT ISOLATE JUNBLATT, WHO DIGGING IN HIS HEELS. NO NEW TELL ZAATAR EVACUATION EXPECTED FOR NOW. END SUMMARY.

2. PALESTINIAN-SYRIAN CEASEFIRE COMMITTEE. QUADRIpartite COMMITTEE MEETING COMPLETELY UNCERTAIN, AS SYRIAN FONMIN KHADDAM AND PLO POLITICAL BUREAU CHIEF QADDUMI EXPECTED DEPART EARLY AUG 9 FOR NONALIGNED CONFERENCE AT SRI LANKA. AL DEPUTY KHOLI OBVIOUSLY FRUSTRATED AS HE SAYS MEETING OUGHT TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE, OR AFTER THEIR RETURN, OR WITH OTHER REPRESENTATIVES. SITE OF MEETING IS STILL UNCERTAIN.

3. ATTITUDES ON QUADRIpartite MEETING. OBJECTIONS TO MEETING, TO WHICH ALL COMBATANT PARTIES AGREED LAST WEEK, ARE NUMEROUS. SYRIANS AND CHRISTIANS APPEAR TO OBJECT TO JUNBLATTIS BEING ONLY REPRESENTATIVE OF LEBANESE LEFT. KHOLI, ON OTHER HAND, SAYS CONCEPT OF COMMITTEE WAS TO BRING TOGETHER ONLY COMBATANT PARTIES, AND ACCORDING TO AL-MUHARRIR HOLDS SYRIANS RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAY SO FAR. CHAMOUN QUOTED IN AS-SAFFIR AS SAYING HIS PARTY WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IF JUNBLATTIS, WHOM HE DESCRIBES AS "TRAITORS," REPRESENTED AT ALL.

4. LOCAL MILITARY MEETING. LOCAL ARAB LEAGUE EFFORTS LIKEWISE MAKING LITTLE PROGRESS.
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GENERAL GHONEIM TO PRESIDE OVER MEETING, AT 1100 LOCAL AUGUST 9 AT MANSOUR PALACE, OF MILITARY LEADERS FROM BOTH SIDES TO DISCUSS ENLARGEMENT OF NEUTRAL ZONES, VIOLATIONS OF CEASEFIRE TO DATE, METHODS OF CONTROL OF VIOLATIONS, AND POSSIBLY STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO SUPPORT REACTIVATION OF LEBANESE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION (PARA 9 BELOW).

5. KHOLI'S EFFORTS. AL DEPUTY KHOLI, DESPITE ALL, CONTINUES INDEFATIGABLY MEETING LEADERS OF VARIOUS FACTIONS. ON AUG 7 HE MET PRESIDENT-ELECT SARKIS, WAS PRESENT AT PIERRE GEMAYEL-SAEB SALAM MEETING (PARA 10 BELOW), AND WENT BACK TO WEST BEIRUT TO MEET RAYMONDEDDE, KARAME AND ARAFAT. ON AUG 8 HE VISITED SIDON, WHERE HE MET ADEL OSSEIRAN, AND LATER SAW IBRAHIM QULAYLAT. HE DENIED THAT IRAQI TROOPS ARE IN LEBANON SUPPORTING PALESTINIANS.

6. MILITARY SITUATION. NEW CHRISTIAN CAMPAIGN? IN LOWER METN, CHRISTIANS, ACCORDING TO ONE RIGHTIST SOURCE, HAVE BEGUN OPERATIONS AROUND CHIAH, GHOBAYRE, HARET AND HORAEEK, AS PART OF STRATEGY TO EVENTUALLY EITHER TAKE OVER BEIRUT AIRPORT OR TO CUT OFF WEST BEIRUT FROM SOUTH. CONCENTRATIONS OF CHRISTIAN FORCES WITH TANKS AND ARMORED CARS REPORTED IN BEIT MERY, AND AS-SAFIR REPORTS 100 MILITARY VEHICLES ON BEIRUT-DAMASCUS ROAD NEAR JUMHOUR. CHRISTIAN SOURCE SAYS CAMPAIGN WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH SECRET SHIITE SUPPORT, SO AS TO MINIMIZE RESISTANCE, IN SAME MANNER AS AT NABAA. OTHER REPORTING INDICATES ULTIMATE CHRISTIAN OBJECTIVE REMAINS PORTIONS OF WEST BEIRUT, BUT NOT UNTIL FINISHING WITH TELL ZAATAR AND UPPER METN BATTLES.

7. BEIRUT AREA. AT NABAA, CHRISTIANS CLAIM PALESTINIAN REMNANTS CONTINUE TO SURRENDER. AMIN GEMAYEL SAYS THEY WILL BE TREATED ACCORDING TO GENEVA CONVENTION RULES. SYRIAN NATIONAL SOCIALIST PARTY SAYS ITS MILITIA STILL FIGHTING AT NABAA. PFLP
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SAYS "ARMENIAN COMMISSION QMNTS" HAVE BETRAYED THEIR FIGHTERS TO CHRISTIANS; AND THREATEN TO KILL CHRISTIAN HOSTAGES IF ITS FIGHTERS MISTREATED BY CHRISTIANS. AL-MUHARRIR SAYS AL DEPUTY KHOLI HAS TRIED WITHOUT SUCCESS TO ARRANGE RELEASE OF NABAA PRISONERS HELD BY CHRISTIANS. AT TELL ZAATAR, HEAVY ARTILLERY CONTINUES. CHRISTIANS CLAIM, AND PALESTINIANS DENY, THAT SOME 400 LEBANESE FAMILIES IN CAMP HAVE "ESCAPED." ONE CHRISTIAN SOURCE SAYS PIERRE GEMAYEL AND SAEB SALAM DISCUSSED POSSIBLE PEACEFUL EVACUATION OF TELL ZAATAR. ONE PALESTINIAN SOURCE SAYS EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO AVOID COMPLETE FALL OF CAMP. HEAVY CLASHES ALONG CITY CONFRONTATION LINES CONTINUE, ESPECIALLY IN GALERIE SEMANN AREA AND AIN EL-RUMMANNEH.

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1472

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8. OUTSIDE BEIRUT. CHRISTIAN FORCE, APPARENTLY WITHOUT DIRECT SYRIAN SUPPORT, LAUNCHED ARMORED ATTACK AUG 7 ON PALESTINIANS AROUND CARMELITE SCHOOL ON EDGE OF TRIPOLI, BUT WERE REPULSED WITH SOME LOSSES. HEAVY CHRISTIAN BOMBARDMENTS OF TRIPOLI ITSELF. IN SOUTH, CLASHES REPORTED BETWEEN SYRIANS AND

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PALESTINIANS IN SOUTHERN BEKAA AND ARKUB REGION.
L'ORIENT ESTIMATES OVER 500 HAVE BEEN KILLED IN COMBAT
IN LEBANON SINCE "CEASEFIRE" WENT INTO EFFECT AUG 5.

9. REVIVAL OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION? PRIMIN KARAME,
WHO NOW HAS OFFICE ON VERDUN STREET IN WEST BEIRUT,
HAD SMALL MEETING AUG 7, AND HAS CALLED SECOND
MEETING AUG 9 OF SOME 20 KEY CIVIL ADMINISTRATORS TO
DISCUSS REACTIVATION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

10. GEMAYEL-SALAM MEETING. PIERRE GEMAYEL AND
SAEB SALAM MET AUG 7 IN WHAT IS BEING WIDELY DISCUSSED
IN BEIRUT AS POSSIBLE SERIOUS BEGINNING OF LEBANESE-
LEBANESE RAPPROCHEMENT. THEY DISCUSSED BROAD
RANGE OF ISSUES AND, ACCORDING TO GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLITAN SALIBI (WHO HOSTED MEETING) WERE IN
GENERAL AGREEMENT ON MOST. NOTABLY BOTH AGREE
THAT ALFORCES MUST BECOME "DETERRENT FORCE."
GEMAYEL SAID SALAM SHARED HIS VIEW OF PALESTINIAN
QUESTION. ACCORDING TO METROPOLITAN SALIBI, SALAM
PROPOSED, AND GEMAYEL AGREED, TO FIND WAY FOR
PEACEFUL EVACUATION OF TELL ZAATAR, BUT AN-NAHAR
SAYS THERE WAS NO UNDERSTANDING ON TELL ZAATAR
SOLUTION. SALAM AND GEMAYEL AGREED TO MEET AGAIN.
CAMILLE CHAMOUN COMMENTED THAT MEETING DEALT
ONLY SUPERFICIALLY WITH PROBLEMS⁹ GEMAYEL MAY
MEET JUNBLATT ANDARAFAT IN NEXT DAYS.

11. MISCELLANEOUS POLITICAL NEWS. CHARLES HELOU
HAS RETURNED FROM EUROPEAN TOUR AND MET WITH
FRANGIE, GEMAYEL AND MARONITE PATRIARCH. JUNBLATT
SAYS, "WE ARE NO LONGER INTERESTED IN THE PEACE
TALKS OR IN THE POLITICAL SOLUTION BECAUSE WE ARE
DETERMINED TO FIGHT, WHATEVER THE COST." HE HAD
LONG MEETING WITH ARAFAT AUG 8, DURING WHICH ARAFAT
REPORTEDLY PROPOSED ATTEMPT TO ORGANIZE BROAD
FRONT OF JUNBLATT'S NATIONAL MOVEMENT WITH EDDE'S
NATIONAL UNITY FRONT AND ISLAMIC GROUP. MOVEMENT IS
SUPPOSED TO PRESENT "WORKING PAPER" TO AL DEPUTY
KHOLI AUG 9. IBRAHIM QULAYLAT ATTACKED PROGRAM OF
ISLAMIC GROUP AS MERE EFFORT TO FIND COMPROMISE
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WITH CHRISTIAN "ISOLATIONISTS" AND RESTATED OPPOSITION

TO ANY FORM OF CONFSSIONALISM. LT. KHATIB OF
LEBANESE ARAB ARMY LIKEWISE REAFFIRMED DEVOTION
TO PRINCIPLES OF NATIONAL MOVEMENT AND PALESTINIAN CAUSE.

12. TELL ZAATAR EVACUATION. NO APPARENT PROGRESS
ON POSSIBLE FURTHER EVACUATIONS BY RED CROSS. AL
DEPUTY KHOLI REPORTEDLY ASKED PRESIDENT SELECT
SARKIS TO INTERVENE WITH KFOUR FRONT TO FIND SOLUTION.
SOME 46 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN PERFORMED
ON EVACUEES TO DATE, ACCORDING TO AN-NAHAR. AS OF
AUG 8, SOME SEVEN EVACUEES HAD DIED, INCLUDING TWO
CHILDREN BECAUSE OF DEHYDRATION, AND NUMBER OF
ADDITIONAL CHILDREN NOT EXPECTED SURVIVE. Wafa
SAYS EVACUEES HAVE BEGUN HUNGER STRIKE IN SUPPORT
OF FURTHER EVACUATIONS. AS-SAFIR SAYS NATIONAL
LIBERALS HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED SHELLING BEIRUT AIRPORT
AUG 7 WHILE ICRC PLANE ON GROUND AND WILL DO SO AGAIN,
SINCE PLANES SUPPOSEDLY CARRYING ARMS FOR PALESTINIANS.
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